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The Common Cause

The Organ of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

Vol. X., No. 487.] FRIDAY, AUGUST 9, 1918. [Price 2d.
Registered as a Newspaper.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Rome or London?	210
The Englishwoman's Castle. By Madge Mears	210
Reviews: The Human Needs of Labour	212
The Englishwoman for August	213
Reports and Notices	213

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Notes and News.

Maternity and Industrial Occupation.

The Women's Industrial Council have been carrying on an enquiry into the quality of maternity in relation to industrial occupation, and, although it was somewhat hampered in this enterprising piece of work by having to depend entirely on a small staff of voluntary workers, who, with all their zeal and skill, could not of course, cover more than a limited field, the results of the pioneer effort are interesting. The Council approached schools for mothers, infant welfare centres and maternity wards of hospitals with enquiries as to the age, health and occupation of the mothers who were being cared for there, the health of their infants, their former pregnancies and other children, the nature of their confinements, &c. It was found that the Welfare Centres were most interested in the general history of the mother and her children, and the hospitals in the nature of her confinement. The Westminster Health Society alone among the bodies from whom enquiries were made had the glory of having kept records "about as perfect and complete as human nature could make them." The first conclusion arrived at as the result of this preliminary enquiry was, therefore, that no data on which reliable statistics can be based at present exist. This is a serious matter, for "if this country really wanted to improve the health and well-being of its citizens, the first step should be to acquire accurate knowledge of those things which act adversely upon the health of infants; and the first factor is that which begins to operate before birth, even before conception through the mother's health. One can even go further and say that the effect on infant mortality of the adolescent life of the mother is not one of the least important factors. Yet no records seem to exist which enable an enquiry to take count of such factors. It is not possible to trace the histories of the mother's employment from adolescence to maternity, with all the attendant details, because no such records are kept anywhere." If the Women's Industrial Council report did no more than call attention to the gaps in our records, it would be a valuable piece of work.

Those who go Out and those who Stay at Home.

It does, however, do more than this. As the result of the detailed examination of 934 cases, and of a very searching list of questions to a number of doctors and midwives, matrons and other health authorities, it comes to the conclusion that "there is practically nothing to choose in quality of maternity between women who go out to work and women who stay at home. Their children live or die in about equal numbers, their confinements are equally good or bad, their infants are born with an equal chance of survival." This, at least, the Women's Industrial Council claims to have proved, that it can find no case on the grounds of quality of maternity for the prohibition of any woman from undertaking any kind of healthy employment of which she feels herself capable.

Women's Work and Men's Work.

Mrs. Boyd Dawson, who signs the report, holds that at present, at any rate, we have no sufficient knowledge to enable us to decide what is (or is not) "women's work." She says: "Statements are made from time to time that certain kinds of employment are 'not suitable for women' and 'not women's work.' There seems to be a prevailing idea in the public mind that there is a line of demarcation between 'man's work' and 'woman's work,' as judged by physical standards. Investigation fails to reveal where that line is situated. It was (before the war) usually considered a man's job to walk in a stately and impressive manner about a shop and direct customers to the 'ribbon department, madam.' It was, and still is, considered a woman's job to scrub and clean elementary schools and the stone steps of blocks of offices. The line of demarcation between these two kinds of work (examples of many others) is obviously not based on physical grounds. The only right way in which judgment can be formed as to what is and what is not 'suitable work for a woman' is by basing that judgment upon knowledge of what will and what will not affect her 'quality of maternity.' In our opinion that knowledge is yet to seek." We echo the hope with which Mrs. Dawson concludes, that the whole of this exceedingly important subject will, before long, be investigated by a Ministry of Health.

Women and Gardens.

Gardening is an occupation which has always appealed strongly to a good many women, though, until recent years, their chief aim has been the production of beauty rather than the production of food. Since the latter has become one of the first of national necessities, women have turned their hands to it with the same eagerness as to the making of munitions and other forms of urgent war work. With some it is nothing more than war work and will be given up when the war is over, but numbers of others have discovered that they have a real vocation for it. Land work is thought by some to be the most "natural" of human occupations, not only for the sons of Adam, but also for the daughters of Eve, and in spite of its physical strenuousness many can testify to its soothing power! It is no wonder that more and more women are turning to it, and that many are anxious to get professional training in really skilled horticulture. Some of these will, no doubt, be glad to profit by the offer made by the Food Production Department last week, to give ten scholarships, tenable at the Horticultural College, Swanley, Kent, for a course of commercial horticulture of about thirty-eight weeks' duration, which will begin about September 19th. The scholarships will be given to candidates over twenty-one years of age, who are suitable for such posts as those of forewomen and instructors. Only women who have had considerable experience in gardening and will undertake the work of food production for the duration of the war are eligible. Application should be made to the Food Production Department, 72, Victoria Street, London, S.W. 1, before August 20th.

"ROME OR LONDON?"

THOSE who wish to obtain a panoramic view of women in industry under war conditions—and it is a picture over which D.O.R.A. would draw a veil were she as discriminating as she is pernickety—cannot do better than study Mrs. Drake's "Women in the Engineering Trades," and the recently published Report of the Committee on the Health of Munition Workers."* Read in combination, these two memoranda present a detailed and extraordinarily complete picture; Mrs. Drake provides what cinematograph producers call the "long view"; Mr. Lloyd George's committee gives the "close up." With the first mentioned of these works the Common Cause has already dealt in a series of articles by Mrs. Oliver Strachey,† which present to us a concise interpretation of Mrs. Drake's narrative and conclusions, tempered with much intimate personal experience of trade union work on behalf of the women welders. Mrs. Strachey retold in outline the intricate story of juggling and prevarication which led Mrs. Drake and her collaborators to the inevitable conclusion that "of the two pledges given by Mr. Lloyd George to organised men and unorganised women, each is redeemed in proportion only to the strength of trade union organisation." And in expounding Mrs. Drake's proposals for the permanent safeguarding of the women's wage, Mrs. Strachey gives us some idea of the complexity of the present problem of women in industry, and of the hideous economic dangers which are looming ahead of them.

The official report on the Health of Munition Workers, which by the nature of existing conditions centres round the woman worker, provides the detailed personal foreground for Mrs. Drake. It is an extraordinarily comprehensive and cold-blooded (or should one say level-headed?) piece of work, showing us things as they are in the munition factory, in the hostel, and by implication, in the home. At one point we read of long hours and exhaustion, which vaguely recall the factory conditions of the eighteen-thirties; at another, of amenities suggestive of the Krupp system at its zenith.

The Report opens with an admirable brief historical survey of the steps by which our pre-war code of factory legislation came to be built up in the course of a hundred years or so of economic and philosophical controversy, before proceeding to contemplation of the developments which followed the suspension of its essential provisions in the face of an urgent need for increased output at whatever cost. From this the Committee passes to a general consideration of the problem of industrial fatigue and the relation between ill-health and low efficiency on the one hand, hours and conditions of work on the other. These sections contain much instructive and rather fascinating information on the subject of scientific management and its material possibilities. We are told, for example, on page 16 that "The rhythms of industrial conditions required by the hours of labour, the pace of machinery or that of fellow-workers, or otherwise, are imposed upon the acting bodily mechanism from outside. If these industrial rhythms are faster than the natural rhythms of the body they must produce accumulated fatigue, and cause an increasing debit, shown in a diminished capacity for work. It is, therefore, the problem of scientific management to discover in the interests of output and of the maintained health of the workers what are the "maximal efficiency rhythms" for the various parts and faculties of the human machine. These must be determined by the organised collection of experience or by direct experiment. They must be separately determined, moreover, not only for the performance of relatively simple muscular movements, all of which depend on the action of "lower" nervous centres, but also for the manifold faculties of the various systems of the body, and for the higher co-ordinating centres, and for all of these the natural rhythms must be studied for the best arrangement of industry, the hours, shifts, spells, pauses, the periods of sleep and holiday on the one hand, and the conditions of factory environment on the other." Among the records of actual experiments in scientific management quoted by the Report perhaps the most striking are those presented by Dr. Vernon on pp. 35-37. Here detailed evidence demonstrates that on definite occasions reductions in hours per week have been followed not merely by a notable increase of output per working hour, but that this increase has been such as to ensure an increase in the total output per week at the reduced hours. This possibility is, of course, one of the well-known facts of industrial life—nevertheless, it is pleasant to be able to put one's hand on actual figures. The Report sums the matter up with the general statement that according to the data presented "a reduction in the weekly hours of actual work, varying from seven to twenty hours per week, in no case resulted in more than an insignificant diminution of total output, while on the average it produced a substantial increase."

From exhaustive consideration of ill-health and fatigue, the Report proceeds to the consideration of methods for securing cleanliness, ventilation, adequate sanitation, &c.; here we find not only descriptions of methods actually in use, but a vast number of recommendations concerning devices which could and should be generally adopted. We find the whole thing treated with such adequate minuteness of detail as to include, for example, suggestions as to how to prevent nailbrushes from being carrred off by the persons for whose use they are provided.

Finally, the Committee attacks the knotty and controversial problem of "welfare"; and here, again, in addition to records of work actually in hand, it submits a detailed scheme of training and organisation for the further extension of such work in the future, in pursuance of its general recommendation that welfare supervisors be appointed in all factories where women are employed. Here, as in connection with health and hours of labour, the Committee has done the work entrusted to it loyally and effectively. It has been invited "to consider and advise on questions of industrial fatigue, hours of labour, and other matters affecting the personal health and physical efficiency of workers in munition factories, and workshops." And its consideration has led it to the view (which, after all, shows distinct advance on the early industrial philosophy of last century) that "to secure harmony and smooth working, to secure efficiency and maximum output, the machine must be subservient to the man; it is his individual health, mental development, and moral well-being which is the guarantee of effective labour." It is in response to its conviction that the physical and moral well-being of the worker is an essential condition of efficient production, that the Committee has outlined its detailed and eminently practical series of recommendations, involving as a fundamental condition general reduction of hours, increase of holidays and widespread attention to the health and personal comfort of the worker. We have in its summary of conclusions:—

> "No abstract intellectual plan of life
> Quite irrespective of life's plainest laws,
> But one a man, who is man and nothing more,
> May lead within a world which (by your leave)
> Is Rome or London, not Fool's Paradise."

If the Powers of Whitehall strike while the iron of Government control is hot, the lives of many hundred thousands of industrial workers may be made just a little happier—whether happiness so obtained will prove a strength to trade unionism is another matter—and the next few years may see in industrial England, if not a New Jerusalem, at least a second Essen.

* Health of Munition Workers' Committee. Report. (Cd. 9065. 2s. net.)

† See The Common Cause, Feb. 15th, Feb. 22nd, March 1st, and March 8th, 1918.

The Englishwoman's Castle.

By Madge Mears.

The present shortage of houses in this country is so acute, and the consequent menace to the national health and efficiency so serious, that there is some real danger that, when building materials and labour are once more freely available, there will be a tendency to adopt the first housing scheme that comes handy, in order to get to work at the earliest possible moment. Therefore the present time, when all such schemes are necessarily schemes for "castles in the air," is the right time for criticism; the right time for warding off, if possible, the ultimate disastrous consequences of a rigid and stereotyped system of house-planning. And vigorous public discussion as to how the proposed houses are to be paid for—whether by a State subsidy or

under direct State control—should not blind us to the equally important question of what sort of houses they are to be when we have got them.

It must be remembered that the house famine is not confined to any one class or district. It affects every family below the income-tax limit, and it affects a good many families above it. The South country farm labourer suffers from the manifold defects of his picturesque, but horribly insanitary cottage; the well-educated, well-paid young artisan in a Northern industrial town must postpone his marriage for months because there is nowhere for him to set up housekeeping; and must finally settle down with his wife, as best he can, in a furnished bed-sitting room " with use of kitchen " in somebody else's overcrowded little dwelling. The provision of a few thousand well-built five-roomed cottages in Essex or Dorsetshire would no doubt be a national blessing; but they will no more solve the housing problem than the provision of a few score dame-schools once solved the educational problem, though these were certainly far better than no schools at all!

The worst of any model plan for " model dwellings " is that it is, all too often, very far from being sufficiently elastic. It commonly sets out to provide suitable houses for the working classes; and incidentally decides, according to certain fixed ideas of respectable antiquity, just what sort of houses *are* suitable for the " working classes." It tends, therefore, to set an arbitrary standard of comfort and progress as absolutely as the rich landowner sets it for his lodgekeeper, living in the damp and earwiggy retreat overshadowed by heavy trees at his park gates. The natural result is that as soon as the prosperous working-class family has saved enough money to move out of the model dwelling and follow their own inclinations in selecting another place of residence, they do so; often pitching upon some mid-Victorian habitation, reduced in rent since its surroundings deteriorated and became more plebeian—appallingly inconvenient, with its underground kitchens and steep stairs; but possessing at least the advantages of solid building, workmanship and fair-sized rooms. Yet it would be quite worth while to spend a little money in order to obtain contented and fairly " settled " tenants for the new national houses; otherwise the natural human indifference towards Government property will combine with the natural human indifference towards any purely temporary place of residence—and presently there will have to be another State subsidy for repairs.

It cannot be too often emphasised that the " small six-roomed house " so dear to the heart of the amateur housing reformer, whilst no doubt a great improvement upon the furnished lodgings, often entails a good deal of superfluous labour and inconvenience for the working man's wife with a growing family. As a general rule, there is only one bedroom which can boast a fireplace; and in the British climate it is flatly impossible to keep any room properly aired and fit for children to sleep in during the winter time, without either a fire or some sort of central heating apparatus. In cases of illness, of course, the problem becomes doubly urgent; in cases of minor infectious illness, measles, whooping cough, influenza, &c., the worried housewife may well feel fairly at her wit's end what to do. We no longer believe, as our grandmothers did, that it is right and necessary for every child to have these ailments sooner or later; yet we take far more effective measures than our grandmothers did to ensure that every child shall have them!

Paradoxically enough, too, it is easier to provide for the efficient ventilation of a Victorian bedroom designed by a generation with a superstitious horror of " the night air " than for that of a small modern bedroom designed by a modern hygienist. It is almost impossible to place the bed out of the direct draught from the open window; and though the hardened health-faddist may not object, a good many people will keep the window shut as an alternative. It is the usual practice, in fireless rooms, to ensure through ventilation by means of a small unglazed window high up in the wall giving on the adjacent passage or landing; this may serve its immediate purpose, but it also lets in every sound, upstairs and down; and in consequence everybody must go to bed at the same time, or be condemned to several hours of disturbed wakefulness. Working-class children are apt to suffer a good deal from lack of sleep; their paramount need, in innumerable cases of anæmia, weak eyesight, disordered nerves, &c., is for eight or nine hours' rest out of the twenty-four in a warm, airy, *quiet* room; and this, in the average " model dwelling " is too often an absolute impossibility.

Our social theorists are sometimes accused of approaching the question of the working woman and her needs upon the basic principle of " Go and see what little Sally is doing, and tell her she mustn't." Her very natural desire for one room which shall be neither a kitchen, nor a scullery, nor a wash-house, nor a night nursery—one room where her housewifely pride can have a little scope to express itself—has called forth, at different times a volume of scorn and denunciation worthy of a better cause. And the cream of the joke is that the working woman, both from an æsthetic and a practical point of view, is entirely right. It is not only eminently desirable that she should have a " best room "; it would be still better if she could have two " best rooms "—one to be used chiefly for recreation, the entertainment of friends, &c., and one where her husband, who very often holds some official position in his Trade Union or Co-operative Society, could keep his books and papers, and work and write in peace undisturbed by the children; and where the elder boys and girls, later on, could sometimes do their home-work. At present, even two or three healthy children can make their presence felt to an alarming degree in a small house on a wet winter evening; peace can only be obtained by packing them off to the nearest cinema—not an ideal solution of the problem. Working-class fathers commonly exhibit a degree of domestic patience which contrasts favourably with the attitude of many parents of the professional classes; still, there are limits to what any man can stand after a hard and trying day's work. There can be no doubt at all that the decline in the birth-rate is influenced very largely by the simple fact that in hardly any modern house of moderate rent is there any place to put the children when you have got them.

A minor point, but one which may exercise the housewife's mind a good deal if only one " living room " is available for all purposes, is, where she is to dry and air the washing in cold or damp weather. In one of Dickens's novels there is an imaginative young man who likes to sit among the sheets hanging out on the clothes-line, and " pretend they are Leafy Groves." Persons of a less romantic temperament, however, will probably prefer that the wet sheets—not to mention all the family flannels—shall obtrude themselves upon the general notice as little as possible.

Another thing which the modern architect is apt to overlook is the fact that the existence of a baby usually implies the existence of a perambulator; whilst the existence of two or three growing boys and girls frequently implies the existence of two or three bicycles. I invite anyone who considers this a trifling matter to try the effect of a full-sized perambulator and a few bicycles (very often muddy bicycles) in his own front hall or his own dining-room. Nor, as a rule, is any adequate provision made for the disposal of such awkard and cumbersome, but indispensable articles as the clothes-horse, the step-ladder, the linen-baskets, and the family portmanteaux. It may be extremely unhygienic to keep the latter under the beds; but, in the small six-roomed house, where else can they be kept?

A good dry lumber-room or store-room on the ground floor would solve many difficulties, and smooth away many causes of friction between different members of the household.

The kitchen and scullery " fittings," on the other hand, have improved very considerably of late years; although the architect's good intentions are sometimes frustrated by the builder's choice of cheap materials.

It may appear superfluous, at this date, to dwell upon the need for a bath-room; yet it is a fact that quite a number of housing schemes still leave it out of account. A bath-room on the upper floor—not that detestable thing, a " scullery bath "—with a fixed basin and an ample supply of hot and cold water, is not only desirable in itself, but saves the space and trouble absorbed by separate wash-stands.

It may be objected that I am dealing throughout with the needs of a working-class family in quite exceptionally comfortable circumstances. I am. Any scheme of social reform which tends to make the naturally easy-going people of this country more contented with a low standard of comfort and a low standard of pay, will do infinitely more harm than good in the long run. At present, every possible encouragement is given to the people who are prepared to abandon their self-respect, live frowsily in mean, grimy little streets of jerry-built brick boxes; accept a low fixed wage with perfect docility; accept spells of unemployment and preventable illness in the same spirit of lazy fatalism; and bring up a shiftless little brood of puny children never to rise above their own level. The plucky, enterprising, intelligent men and women, on the contrary, are so continually exasperated by petty handicaps and rebuffs that in the end they can hardly be blamed if they give up Old England as a bad job, and seek a brighter fortune overseas—a course which, however admirable it may have been in the past, is certainly not to be advocated in the immediate future.

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decent house, and perhaps would be slow to learn the lesson, never having had a decent house to take care of. But even in these cases some slight improvement is possible; and moreover, as Bernard Shaw says, dealing with this very question (in *The Common Sense of Municipal Trading*), "they (the model dwellings) are seldom occupied to any extent worth reckoning by the occupants of the slums which have been demolished to make room for them. They are taken by people on the verge of the middle-class, and by the respectable-at-any-price poor. But these people are shifted up from private lodgings of the highest working-class grade, which, being left vacant, have to be re-let to second-grade tenants, who leave their rooms vacant for the third, and so on; all being shifted a step up."

It is always possible, too, that we take too pessimistic a view, even of the slummers. Very often their degradation arises from some single and remedial cause, illness or business misfortune; in one case in which "the pig makes the stye" there are twenty in which "the stye makes the pig!" It is instructive to remember, in this connection, how at one time any reasonable proposal to lessen the evils of unemployment was met by a contemptuous assertion that there were hundreds of able-bodied loafers in this country who simply did not choose to work—they preferred to spend their lives tramping from one casual ward to the next, &c. Now since 1914, for the first time in recorded history, there has been plenty of work for everyone; and long before the Military Service Acts came into operation, the able-bodied loafer had disappeared into the Army, or into the ship-yards, or into the munition shops; and the casual wards were closed down. May we not entertain a timid hope, therefore, that some at least amongst our slum population will prove equally amenable to altered circumstances? The housewifely instinct of the average Englishwoman is so strong—she will cling so tenaciously to her pride in her little home, even under almost incredible handicaps of poverty, overwork, and subsequent ill-health—that we can safely say, if it is really beaten out of her at last, this can only be by the most inhuman and merciless conditions. She may be no wiser than her husband over many weighty questions of national and international policy; but she is always certain of one thing—that she does want "a nice little house." And in using her awakening political sagacity and her growing political power towards the realisation of this dream, she will be rendering a far-reaching service to the British Empire.

Reviews.

The Human Needs of Labour. B. Seebohm Rowntree. (Nelson. 3s. 6d. net.)

It is the duty of every student in economics to read Mr. Rowntree's "Human Needs of Labour." Owing, however, to certain defects of form, it remains a duty rather than a pleasure to master its contents. The style is diffuse, repetitions are frequent, tabulations, notes, appendices break up the narrative. It is, in fact, essentially a crude text book rather than such a human masterpiece in miniature as, for example, Mrs. Fawcett has shown to be possible by her *Woman Suffrage* in the Everyman Series. This is unfortunate, as we hope the book may reach even the most unacademic of social reformers.

Chapter I. deals with The Family, and begins by defining the distinction between a minimum wage and a wage above the minimum: "the former should be determined principally by human needs, the latter by the market value of the services rendered." Mr. Rowntree holds strongly that under the present wage system, the man, as the potential or actual father of a family, is entitled to a wage approximately double that of a woman worker. For as he seeks to prove by a few somewhat random statistics that the vast majority of women have no dependents. In this connection we note a curious result of unconscious bias that, while stating on p. 16 that "a father of a family is held responsible for the maintenance of both wife and children," on p. 108 he maintains that daughters paying in money to a mother with whom they live need not necessarily be regarded as "partially maintaining" her, but with equal correctness as "only paying their mother to keep house for them," and again, though the suggestion on p. 16 appears to be that the "maintenance" of a wife is a charge without return in economic value, on p. 117 it is carefully pointed out that if the wife is an invalid "a paid helper is brought in to do her work."

Mr. Rowntree's main argument—that a higher minimum wage is the right of the worker—is based upon food values and their cost in money. Evidence in regard to food values, expressed in terms of "protein" and "fuel energy" covers a large number of pages, and Mr. Rowntree concludes from it that a man requires, of protein 115 grams, of fuel energy 3,500 calories, a woman 92 grams and 2,800 calories, respectively, and a child 57½ and 1,750. Worked out in money (as values were in July, 1914) and adding rent, clothing, household fuel, and sundries, the minimum wage for men appears as 35s. 3d., and for women as 20s. (equal to 44s. and 25s. when prices drop some 25 per cent. at the close of the war). A further conclusion, also supported with a wealth of detail, is that in fixing any minimum wage, more than three children should be recognised in each family; for even if four are allowed for "43 per cent. of the children would still, for varying periods, be inadequately provided for, and 38 per cent. would be in that condition for at least five years." Thus, almost, as it would seem with reluctance, Mr. Rowntree is brought to perceive, as certain writers in The Common Cause and elsewhere have perceived even

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more clearly than he that, may be, the present system of wages should be ended rather than mended. In "Summaries and Conclusions," the following pregnant passage occurs: "Unless, therefore, we are to continue to allow a large proportion of the nation's children to pass through many critical years ill-housed, ill-clad, and underfed, we must seek some other means of solving the problem which confronts us. The only remaining solution—and I admit that it is fraught with many difficulties—is to fix minimum wages sufficient to secure physical efficiency for, say, three dependent children, and for the State to make a grant to the mother in such cases, and for such a time as there are more than three dependent children. This suggestion may appear revolutionary, but it is nothing new. Such a principle is already admitted in the case of the income tax, where a substantial abatement is made for every child. If Parliament has recognised the need for such a State grant to families with an income of not less than £130 a year, surely a much stronger case can be made out for a similar grant where the income is much smaller. Again, "the State graduates its separation allowance for soldiers' wives according to the number of dependent children." Thus the author of a statistical work dealing laboriously, even meticulously with things as they are, no demagogue, no visionary, points the way to a new world where these former things shall have passed. In the words of his Introduction: "The war has torn the scales from our eyes . . . by the light of this clearer vision we have come to regard many conditions as intolerable which before had only seemed inevitable."

A. H. W.

The Englishwoman. (August, 1918.)

The Englishwoman for August is an out-of-doors number. There is a light article on learning to farm, by a pupil at Molash Farm: a sketch called "On a Canal Boat," and a note also pointing out that the authorities are asking for women bargees; there is a spring-like trifle "Orchards in Bloom," and, best of the out-door series, is Miss Sybilla Vesey's delightful account on how you can serve your country on the moors or in the woods by collecting sphagnum moss and other medicinal herbs, and how such home produce, if properly dried and packed, is found to be of greater value to the chemist than that hitherto got from abroad. Two other articles of first-rate practical value are, "The Adoption of Children," in which Mr. Croom Johnson gives a careful analysis of the present legal position of those who adopt children, and "Income Tax Self-Protection," by J. Burns—a triumph of conciseness and lucidity, to be greeted with joy by those who, though they ought to understand such things, to avoid being unjustly mulcted, find them, nevertheless, as peculiar as the ways of any heathen Chinee.

Reports, Notices, etc.

THE THIRD "COMMON CAUSE" HUT OPENED.

If the ideal summer day on which the latest COMMON CAUSE Hut was opened made it difficult to realise that in the darker wintry days Salisbury Plain can look very dreary, the long drive from the station was a forcible reminder of the isolation of the camps and the great need for the huts.

Built close to their work, it yet brings to the W.A.A.C.s and the W.R.A.F.s of two camps a taste of the outside world, which no official camp recreation rooms, however good, can give in quite the same way.

At the opening, on July 31st, Lady Proctor, C.B.E., President of the Y.W.C.A., took the chair, and spoke most warmly of the gratitude of the Association to the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE, who had now given a third hut; and at the same time of her great regret that Mrs. Fawcett could not herself be present, and that distance prevented the donors from coming to see for themselves the result of their work in raising the funds.

The huts did not stand for recreation alone, through them the sense of home was preserved which in these days of work in uniforms and under abnormal conditions was apt to be lost.

Even bigger responsibilities were coming to women after the war, in the work of reconstruction, and meeting places such as these, in which girls learnt to understand other peoples' point of view, would be of great help in times to come when enormous responsibilities would rest on the young womanhood of the country.

Lady Sclater, D.B.E., performed the formal opening ceremony, throwing open a door whose pleasant width in itself gave a look of hospitality. She spoke sympathetically of the work of the Y.W.C.A. in which she had interested herself at Simla, and said she felt a vote of thanks should be given to the readers of THE COMMON CAUSE which had done so much good work in providing the huts.

After other short speeches came tea, which provided an excellent demonstration of quick service, through a conveniently-placed hatch connecting the kitchen with the large hall.

The whole hut looks most fresh and attractive, with its cream walls, brown stained floors, and blue casement curtains, and one could not help wondering if, after the war, some of the girls who had been welcomed there would not adopt these colours for those rooms of their own by which they will qualify as voters, in remembrance of their recreation time in the Netheravon Hut.

Besides the large hall there are two smaller quiet rooms, and pleasant little quarters for the Hut Leader and her helper. The whole is most conveniently planned, and in times of reconstruction, authorities will do well to take into council on housing schemes some of the women who have had this practical experience in planning these huts for women workers which are now to be found not only in Coventry and on Salisbury Plain, but in Basra, Kut, and Bagdad.

LONDON UNITS, SCOTTISH WOMEN'S HOSPITALS.

Good news continues to reach the London Office about the Elsie Inglis Unit, the Transport particularly is doing excellent work and is sending forward a camp for a small party which will be nearer the Front. The present garage is now working splendidly; Miss Hedges, the First Transport Officer, writes of this:—

> "We feel it is a thing to be prou' of, especially as it is made in such a way that if need arose it could be taken to pieces and transported and reconstructed in a very short time."

Jewellers to H.M. the King

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The coat comes by return for 37/6 with your order. If it fails to satisfy you, return the coat within four days in same condition as received, and we will return your money in full. **You** risk nothing. **We guarantee** to satisfy you.

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40 in.—for nurses' and general wear—in a splendid range of plain colours; stripes and checks. 2/11 ..... a yard

Both the present Transport Camp at Dragomantsi and the suggested one nearer the Front will be staffed from the existing transport *personnel*, and the chauffeurs will take turn and turn about with the forward work which is naturally the most popular. For the present, Miss Hedges will remain in charge at Dragomantsi while Miss Robinson, Second Transport Officer, will be in command of the forward party.

It is with great regret that we received the news of the death from illness of Miss Macdowell, a lorry driver with the Elsie Inglis Unit Transport. The Serbian military authorities showed their deep appreciation of the sacrifice thus made by an Englishwoman for Serbia by arranging for a funeral with full military honours. The ceremony was attended by many officers—Serbian, French and British, and by the whole transport staff and representatives from the hospital.

National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies.

President: Mrs. Henry Fawcett, LL.D.

Hon. Secretaries:
Miss Margaret Jones.
Mrs. Oliver Strachey (Parliamentary).
Miss Evelyn Atkinson (Literature).

Hon. Treasurer:
Mrs. Alys Russell.

Secretaries:
Miss Evans, Mrs. Hubback (Information and Parliamentary).

Offices—Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1.
Telegraphic Address—Voiceless, Ox, London. Telephone—Museum 2668.

Reports from Societies.

BRISTOL.—After the Suffrage Celebration and Annual Meetings were over, the Bristol Society decided to hold monthly meetings to advocate the new reforms for which the N.U. stands and to educate women in the use of the vote.

On May 7th the first meeting was held at 40, Park Street, and Miss Tanner gave an address on "Who is qualified for the vote?" A great deal of interest was shown by those present. Since then, the office at 40, Park Street has been taken over by the Military Authorities and a new programme has had to be drawn up. By the kindness of Mrs. Satchell, the President of the St. Paul's Branch, a meeting was held in her grounds on July 2nd. The chair was taken by Miss Edna Keen, who likened Suffragists to the Knights of old, and said that we had now only donned our armour, the fight is before us. Mrs. W. C. Cross gave an address, speaking chiefly on the need for an equal moral standard for men and women.

On June 4th, the Bristol Society helped to arrange an inaugural meeting to form a Women Citizens' Association. It was held at the Museum Lecture Hall, and Mrs. Ogilvie Gordon was the chief speaker. The room was full, and about 100 people joined. Since then, other meetings have been held, and though the Women Citizens' Association here owes its inception to the N.U.W.W., the Suffrage Society has largely helped in forming it, and its Hon. Sec. and Hon. Treasurer are members of the Suffrage Executive Committee.

On June 11th, the N.U.W.S.S. joined with other societies in Bristol in holding a Meeting of Protest against Regulation 40D, at Fortt's Rooms; Canon Talbot took the chair and Miss Wakefield was the chief speaker. The room was crowded and the meeting which was initiated by the W.I.L. was a great success. Resolutions to be sent to the Government were unanimously passed.

In Baby Week, the Bristol Hon. Sec., Mrs. W. C. H. Cross, addressed a great many open-air meetings, and arranged to keep a shop open for a fortnight for literature and propaganda. Advantage was taken of the visit of Mrs. H. A. L. Fisher during this week to secure her for a Suffrage meeting. Mrs. Cross kindly lent her empty house, which was anything but empty on July 12th, when a most successful meeting was held. Miss Staveley, of Bristol University, took the chair, and Mrs. Fisher, in a charming speech, gave cogent reasons why the Suffrage Society should not relax its efforts and pleaded for funds. Tea followed, arranged by Mrs. Gale-Scott, and the Society is indebted to Mrs. Fisher for a very pleasant afternoon

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KESWICK.—The annual meeting of this society was held on July 15th. The Treasurer's report showed that contributions had been made to various suffrage activities to the amount of £5, and that the collection for The Common Cause hut was over £5.

The Secretary's report showed a satisfactory year's work. The usual committee meetings had been held and well attended. At a meeting held to discuss the future of the N.U., the general feeling was in favour of work on a broad basis and towards the full citizenship of women. The outcome of this was a conference called to consider co-operation with other organised bodies to help towards the education of women voters. Representatives of the local clergy, the B.W.T.A., N.U.T., Primrose League, Women's Liberal Association, Women's Co-operative Guild, and the Rechabites were invited to attend. The meeting on May 2nd decided to form a Citizens' Association. The majority there present were in favour of a joint Association for men and women. The settlement of this point was deferred to May 17th, when the Association was inaugurated. On that date Miss C. E. Marshall addressed the meeting on "The Responsibilities of the Parliamentary Vote," and Mr. Broatch gave an excellent paper on "What Women are Entitled to Vote," and also answered questions. The citizens started at once by asking Mr. F. E. Marshall to speak on the Education Bill, and by starting a petition to the Home Secretary to repeal Regulation 40D, Defence of the Realm Act.

The Association will no doubt do good work, but the Suffrage Society is by no means free from responsibility. It is hoped that members will continue to give practical support so long as its object—equal terms for men and women—is still unattained.

N. Walker-Jones, Hon. Sec.

N.U.W.S.S. Scottish Women's Hospitals.

Subscriptions are still urgently needed, much new work being undertaken, and should be sent to Mrs. Laurie, Hon. Treasurer, S.W.H., Red House, Greenock. Cheques to be crossed "Royal Bank of Scotland." Subscriptions for the London Units to be sent to the Right Hon. Viscountess Cowdray, or to Miss Gosse, Joint Hon. Treasurers, 66, Victoria Street, Westminster, London, S.W.1.

	£	s.	d.
Forward as per list to July 11th, 1918	337,477	17	9
Further donations received to July 18th, 1918:—			
Major H. Warburton	30	0	0
*Per Miss Macdonald Clarke, Edinburgh, for "Scots Thistle" Bed (Royaumont) ...	1	0	0
*"George Square Former Pupils' Club," Edinburgh, per Miss A. D. Ballingall, Treas. (already received, £2)		2	0
*Mrs. A. G. Glendinning ...		10	0
*Further for "Hope" Beds, per A. T. Hope (Royaumont and Salonica)	50	0	0
*Miss H. E. H. Smith (Serbia 10s., France 10s.)	1	0	0
*Per Mrs. Robertson: *Employees and Staff, Saxone Shoe Co. Ltd. (£6 9s. 1d.), *Employees and Staff, Messrs. Dick, Kerr & Co. Ltd. (27th contribution) (£5 12s. 5d.), Employees and Staff, Messrs. Boyd & Forrest (91st contribution) (£2 4s. 6d.) ...	14	6	0
*Oxford W.S.S., per Mrs. Brabaal	11	8	2
John Rutherford, Esq.	2	2	0
*Miss Helena M. Yates		6	0
*"A Mite from Corstorphine"		2	6
*Miss Agnes Kelly	1	0	0
"Wanlockhead War Relief Society," per John Edmond, Esq., Hon. Sec. and Treas (Serbia)	5	0	0
*Mrs. and The Misses J. M. and E. M. Usher, for "Merchiston" Bed (America Unit)	2	0	0
*Miss Mary Smith	5	0	0
*Mrs. A. H. Dickson	2	2	0
Miss J. M. Darling		10	6
*Collected for "Trinity Heroes" Bed (Royaumont), per Mrs Young: *Malcolm Smith, Esq. (£2 2s.), *Miss Currie (10s.)	2	12	0
Contents of Money Box (for Serbian Refugee Children in Corsica)		8	0
*Pupils, St. Denis School, Edinburgh, per Miss A. Bourdass, Principal, Proceeds of Sale for upkeep of "St. Denis" Bed (Royaumont)	80	5	0
*The London Committee of the S.W.H., 66, Victoria St., Westminster, London, per Miss Gosse, Jt. Hon. Tres., per Miss B. Stormer, for London Ward at Royaumont	825	0	0
*Clerks in the Claims and Record Offices, Kew, per Miss Janet Smith, for "Claims and Record Office, Kew" Bed (Villers-Cotterets) (Monthly donation)	6	3	0
	£338,518	14	11

* Denotes further donations.

FURTHER LIST OF BEDS NAMED.

Names of Beds.	*Donors.*
"Hope" (2 beds) (Royaumont and Salonica, further 6 months each) ...	Per A. T. Hope.
LONDON WARD (33 beds) (Royaumont, further 6 months each)	London Committee, S.W.H., per Miss Gosse, per Miss B. Stormer.
"St. Denis" (Royaumont, further 18 months	Per Miss A. Bourdass, Principal, St. Denis School Edinburgh

Permanent Fund and New Citizen's Fund.

	£	s.	d.
Already acknowledged ...	217	8	3
Miss Glyde	1	0	0
Mr. H. M. Gregory	2	0	0
Mrs. Muller	1	1	0
Mrs. M. Wright		2	0
Miss H. C. Deneke	5	0	0
Miss M. Temperley		10	0
Miss F. de G. Merrifield ...	1	1	0
Mr. F. Merrifield	1	1	0
Mrs. H. L. Atkinson		2	6
Miss E. Lock		5	0
Miss A. Coppock	1	1	0
Miss A. J. Pertz	1	1	0
Miss E. M. Miller		5	0
Miss A. Allen-Brown	1	0	0
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Miss H. M. Waithman	1	0	0
Miss F. E. L Walrond	1	0	0
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[Continued on page 216.

Continued from page 215.]

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LADY requires, September quarter, three rooms, one fitted as kitchen, all on same floor, first or second; W.C. district, or near Oxford-st.; moderate rent; very quiet and careful tenant.—Write Mrs. Longley, Common Cause Office.

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Printed (and the Trade supplied) by the National Press Agency Ltd., Whitefriars House, Carmelite St., London, E.C. 4, for the Proprietors, The Common Cause Publishing Co. Ltd., and Published at Evelyn House, 62, Oxford Street, London, W. 1. *London:* George Vickers. *Manchester:* John Heywood; Abel Heywood & Son; W. H. Smith & Son. *Newcastle-on-Tyne:* W. H. Smith & Son. *Edinburgh and Glasgow:* J. Menzies & Co. *Dublin and Belfast:* Eason & Son.